

Gloucester Friday.  
Feb. 17/65

Dear William.

38 Do you intend to speak at the  
celebration of the Great Event in New-  
buryport - on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>? Do  
drop me one word - direct to - Care of

H. C. W. Gloucester, Feb. 17, 1865.  
J. M. Friend, Gloucester Mass., so I  
can get it Monday or Tuesday of next  
week & tell me if you are to be in  
Newburyport to speak on that occasion.  
I have been mostly confined to my room  
& to the house for two weeks. I am  
better. Have been run down not a  
little. Fever & Chill - Headache & a  
hard cough - but am slowly getting  
up. I want to hear you in the town  
of your birth - after having been a  
stranger & a kind of outcast - & your  
very existence ignored - except as a Mark  
for slander & obloquy. Oh William!  
What a triumph! Won solely by fidel-  
ity to Justice & Humanity - in pleading  
for the dumb & the despised of earth!  
God bless you - William! I cannot  
respect the Motives of those who often 36



your of entire consecration of your life to  
the cause of freedom & the rights of hu-  
manity in the person of the negro -  
are trying to make you out a traitor  
to yourself - to the Negro & to God. This  
they are doing under pretence of a high  
regard for "Absolute Justice" & "Equal  
Rights." There is such a thing  
as Carth. Pious Carth. Anti-Slavery  
Carth. Reform Carth. & I hate it  
as I do any thing lower of Envy Am-  
bition, Pride of Opinion, Bigotry, & Non-  
sense. Murdering. I want to hear  
you in your Native Town - on  
that occasion of celebration for event  
to which your life has been dedicated.

God bless you for your speech in  
Maine Hall. Wendell G. Garrison's criti-  
cism on Butler's speech there was just.  
Butler belittled himself not a little by  
his allusions to Sherman. He horrified  
himself more than Sherman. Your  
remarks about Lincoln were just. His  
whole career as President - judged from  
the stout point of Sherman's Government -  
demands kindly sympathy & admiration  
rather than unforgiveness, unkindly harsh  
suspicion & condemnation. It will be  
found that as President - he has done what  
he could do - & true to his oath of office.  
His letter to you is admirable. I think  
he will live to confound his maligners.  
As the Head of a Government - no man has  
ever been so true to the Democratic Idea  
(the Rule of the Majority) on which ~~the~~ our free  
power rests.

Do drop me one word. I think I  
shall go to Newburyport on the 22<sup>d</sup> if  
you got speak there. Henry Wright